



## **WAAY-TV**

Issue-Responsive Programming

October 1, 2018-December 31, 2018

(attempted to submit online to FCC on 1/9/2019, website down due to government shutdown)

### **Community Issues Identified**

- Education
- Politics
- Crime & Public Safety
- Health
- Business, Technology & Economic Development

### **Regularly scheduled programs on WAAY-TV:**

- WAAY31 Local News M-F 4:30-5:00am
- WAAY31 Local News M-F 5:00-6:00am
- WAAY31 Local News M-F 6:00am-7:00am
- WAAY31 Local News M-F 11:00am-12:00noon
- WAAY31 Local News M-F 4:00pm-5:00pm
- WAAY31 Local News M-F 5:00-5:30pm
- WAAY31 Local News M-F 6:00-6:30pm

- WAAY31 Local News M-F 10:00-10:35pm
- WAAY31 Local News S/S 5:00-5:30pm
- WAAY31 Local News Saturday 6:00-6:30pm
- WAAY31 Local News S/S 10:00-10:35pm

Each of the above programs represents locally-produced news which includes issues-related news stories and segments on issues of local importance. Issue-responsive program segments are typically 1:00-3:00 segments.

- Law Call Su 10:35-11:05pm

Law Line is a locally-produced legal hotline where viewers are able to call and ask legal questions on a variety of topics.

- WAAY 31 News Extra Sa 6:00-6:30pm

WAAY 31 News Extra is a conglomeration of news stories and issues that were big throughout the week.

- Good Morning America M-F 7:00am-9:00am
- GMA Day M-F 12:00pm-1:00pm
- World News Tonight M-F 5:30pm-6:00pm
- ABC News Nightline M-F 11:35pm-12:05pm
- Good Morning America S/S 7:00am-8:00am
- This Week Su 8:00am-9:00am
- World News Tonight S/S 5:30pm-6:00pm

The above programs are produced by ABC network news discussing issues-related stories and segments of national importance.

**The following is a list of some of the more significant community issues addressed by this/these station(s) for the quarter specified. This listing is by no means complete, nor is the order in which these issues appear, intended to imply any degree of priority or significance of the issues.**

## **Education**

### **Limestone Employees Suspended without Pay**

- It was announced in November that two Limestone Co. school employees were suspended without pay.
- Records showed a bus driver swatted at a student and an assistant football coach threatened to use a racial slur at a player.
- Reporter did a live story on the issues in the 6pm newscast.

### **Guntersville Possible New High School**

- Board of Education discussed at a November meeting whether they should renovate the high school or build a new one.
- Parents and officials say the school is needed because it's over 50 years old.
- Officials are looking at three options: sales tax increase, property tax increase, or bond market.
- Reporter did a live story in the 10pm newscast.

### **Madison City Tax Increase for Schools**

- The superintendent for Madison City Schools is looking ahead to major growth in the area.
- He announced earlier this year a plan for a 12 millage hike on property taxes in Madison City and have voters have the final say in a special election.
- In October the school board approved the plan.
- Reporter did a live story in the 10pm newscast.

### **Athens High School Opening Delay**

- The new Athens High School was set to open in August for the new school year, but was pushed back to a November 19<sup>th</sup> opening.
- WAAY 31 learned that November 19<sup>th</sup> opening was pushed back until after the holiday.
- School officials say all the set backs are due to weather.
- Reporter did a live story in the 5pm newscast.

### **7 Kids Injured in Bus Crash**

- WAAY 31 learned of a school bus crash in October that happened in Lauderdale County.
- 7 students were injured in that crash with one of those students needing to be airlifted to UAB hospital in Birmingham.
- Ran as an anchor VO in the 4pm newscast.

## **Politics**

### **Doug Jones Farm Visit**

- Senate Doug Jones made a stop in Alabama to visit with local Soy Bean farmers in November.
- He wanted to see first-hand how the new tariff's imposed by President Trump would affect farmers.
- Reporter did a story on it for the 6pm newscast.

### **Jail Food Amendment**

- Voters in the November general election voted to end a long time practice of letting sheriff's pocket leftover profits from feeding inmates.
- The amendment showed up on the Morgan and Cullman County ballots.
- Reporters did several stories throughout October leading up to the general election.

### **Locals Remember George HW Bush**

- WAAY 31 spoke with a local man in December who had met the former President when he was on a campaign stop in Huntsville with his son, Bush 43.
- The man told us how nice the former President was and how he was the first person he had ever voted for.
- Reporter did a live shot in our Saturday 6pm show.

### **Governor Ivey Elected**

- Governor Kay Ivey made history during the midterm elections in November.
- She was voted in as the first woman republican governor.
- She was appointed to the position as governor almost two years ago when Robert Bentley resigned.
- Reporter did a live shot at 10 from her campaign watch party.

### **Ten Commandments Vote**

- In October we first reported how people in Alabama would get the chance to vote on the Ten Commandments being displayed in schools and government buildings.
- One of our reporters did a "what people think" story later in the month.
- On November 6<sup>th</sup>, voters approved the ballot measure during the midterm elections.
- Our anchors broke the news during the 10pm newscast.

## **Crime & Public Safety**

### **Confessed Serial Killer Admits to Killing More than 90 Women**

- Story came to light in November.
- WAAY 31 learned Samuel Little had a tie to the Tennessee Valley.
- He confessed to killing a woman who lived in Decatur in the 90's and dumping her body in Mississippi.
- He was already serving time for a murder charge.
- Reporter talked with the family of the victim who still lives in our area.
- Reporter did a live shot in the 6pm show.

### **Man Wanted for Rape Accused of Trying to Run Down a Deputy**

- Happened in November.
- Police in Moulton say the man had been involved in a police chase earlier that month where they say he attempted to kill a state trooper.
- The man had already been convicted of rape, drug trafficking, among other things but was wanted to failing to register as a sex offender.
- Reporter did a live story in the 5.

### **Burned Dog Reward**

- Happened in late October.
- WAAY 31 learned of a dog that had been badly burned in Marshall County and Sheriff's deputies were searching for the person responsible.
- The dog had been set on fire and had second degree burns.
- Together, a family along with police offered a \$2,500 reward.
- Reporter did a PKG in the 6pm newscast.

### **New Website for Stolen Items**

- Huntsville Police are using a new tool to help locate people's items that were stolen.
- We did the story in December.
- Police said they started using this online tool a year ago and require pawn shops to enter serial numbers from items they buy into a database so police can check to see if they're stolen.
- Reporter did a story on the tool for the 5pm newscast.

### **Shoe Repairman Robbed**

- Happened in December in Decatur.
- A man in his 70's who owns a shoe repair shop said two men broke in overnight and stole over \$4,000 worth of equipment.
- The man told us he needs most of the tools stolen but vowed not to close.
- We followed up on the story several days later after we learned someone had given the man a \$5,000 check to help him out.

- Reporter did two different live stories on two different days in the 5 & 6 newscasts.

### **Deadly Police Standoff**

- Happened on December 3<sup>rd</sup> in Lauderdale County.
- Police told us they were serving a warrant on drug charges when the man refused to come out of his home then started firing a gun at officers.
- The suspect was killed; however, police have not released how the man died.
- Reporter did a live report in the Midday and 4pm shows.

## **Health**

### **Lettuce Recall**

- On November 26<sup>th</sup>, health officials lifted part of a lettuce recall.
- This came after an E. Coli outbreak was reported.
- The outbreak lasted for over a week.
- We ran an anchor VO in all newscasts.

### **Red Cross Blood Shortage**

- The Red Cross announced they were low in blood and needed donations.
- The Huntsville chapter announced they would hold a “Tide and Tigers” drive to encourage Alabama and Auburn fans to donate ahead of the Iron Bowl.
- Reporter did a live PKG in the 5pm show

### **Virus Outbreak at Local School**

- In October a school in Marshall Co. excused all absences after over half the student body was out sick.
- School officials believe it was a stomach bug.
- They did not take any extra measures to clean the school.
- Reporter was live in our 4pm show.

### **New Flu Drug Approved**

- Did the story on November 9th
- The FDA approved a new flu fighting drug called “Xofluza.”
- We spoke with a local doctor about the new drug along with parents.
- Officials say it kills the flu virus in one day instead of three like “Tamiflu.”
- Reporter did a PKG in the 4pm show.

### **Former HIV Clinic Now Offering Primary Healthcare**

- We did a story in December about a place called “Thrive Health Care” that decided to expand services to primary healthcare.
- They originally only catered to people with HIV.
- We reported the clinic has plans to open a larger facility as they grow.

- Our reporter did a PKG for the 10pm show.

## **Business, Technology & Economic Development**

### **Bellefonte Nuclear Power Plant**

- We reported in October the Tennessee Valley Authority was planning to sell the nuclear power plant in Jackson County.
- A group called “Nuclear Development LLC” bid \$111 million to buy the plant, which would have made them the single largest private owner of a nuclear power plant.
- A deadline was given for the payment to be made in full.
- The November deadline passed without a payment.
- Reporter did a story in the 6pm newscast.

### **Facebook Solar Farm**

- The Tennessee Valley Authority announced in October that two solar farms would be built in Colbert and Lincoln counties that would supply power to the new Facebook data center being built in Huntsville.
- TVA said the 377 mega watt output from the facilities will be all renewable energy
- Reporter did a live story in the 4pm newscast.

### **Rocket City Trash Pandas**

- A year after reporting the Mobile Bay Bears would move to North Alabama, officials revealed the new name in September and in October revealed the new logo.
- The new team called the “Rocket City Trash Panda’s” will be located in Madison.
- In October they revealed the new logos at a party.
- Sports reporter did a live hit in the 10pm Saturday newscast.

### **Huntsville Street Project to Revamp Traffic Flow**

- We did a report in December about a new traffic project that started in Huntsville.
- It’s a \$15.7 million project that will revamp the flow of Church Street.
- Construction crews call the project a “nightmare” because they have to move all the utility poles and wires that go along with them.
- Reporter did a live story in the 10pm newscast.

### **Redstone Arsenal Jobs**

- The FBI announced in November they were bringing 1,300 jobs to Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville.
- The plan includes building a large scale operations support building that should be complete by 2021 for the move from Washington DC to Alabama.
- Reporter grabbed an anchor story.